

BUSINESS INDICATORS

AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL
TERRITORY

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INQUIRIES

- For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back page of this publication.
- For further information about these statistics, contact Conrad Bulenda on Canberra (02) 6207 0286.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE

RELEASE DATE

March 1998

23 March 1998

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SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ACT Australian Capital Territory

n.a. not available

n.p. not available for publication

p preliminary

* Represents data with a standard error of greater than 25%.
Caution should be exercised when using this data.

— nil or rounded to zero

Dalma Jacobs
Regional Director

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the January 1998 issue are: labour force; housing finance; wage and salary earners; industrial disputes; housing and construction; retail turnover; motor vehicle registrations; selected retail prices and the consumer price index. A feature article on Weekly Earnings of Employees in the ACT is included on pages 8 and 9.

NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Labour force | The unemployment rate for the ACT fell by 0.1 percentage points from December 1997 to a level of 8.1% after peaking at 8.3% in October–November. Trend employment decreased marginally (down 0.4% to 153,500 persons) in January 1998 with the ACT recording its seventh consecutive month of decline. The number of full time employed decreased proportionally more during January (down by 1,100 or 0.9%) and the participation rate fell from 71.3% to 70.9%. Nationally, trend employment grew slightly (0.2%) while the trend unemployment fell marginally, from 8.2% to 8.1%. |
| Housing finance | The trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) in the ACT during December 1997 increased to 748 dwellings, a rise of 0.4%. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT was \$85.3 million, an increase of 1.8% on the previous month. This is the sixth consecutive monthly increase. Refinancing of existing dwellings comprised 22.4% of the total number of dwelling units financed in December 1997, which was up 4.9 percentage points on the previous month. Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) during December 1997 remained steady and the trend estimate for the value of commitments increased by 0.8%. |
| Wage and salary earners | The trend number of wage and salary earners reported by Government agencies and businesses located in the ACT fell 1.3% (or 1,800 persons) to 140,000 in the period May 1997 to August 1997. This compares to a national growth rate of 0.4% (or 29,600 persons). The proportion of private sector wage and salary earners in the ACT now stands at 51%. |
| Industrial disputes | For the 12 months ended October 1997 there were 21 working days lost per thousand employees in the ACT, compared to a figure of 72 days nationally. This was the same figure as the previous month in the ACT, while nationally it was an increase of 10.8%. |

Housing and construction The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT increased by 9.6% to 149 dwelling units in December 1997, the fifth consecutive monthly increase. Nationally the total number of dwelling units approved increased by 1.9% in December 1997. The trend number of dwelling units approved in Australia has increased for each of the last six months.

The value of non-residential building approvals in the ACT was \$42.8 million in December 1997, an increase of \$16.4 million (or 62.1%) from the previous month and \$26.3 million (159.4%) higher than December 1996. Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals increased by 3.7% from the previous month and was 6.3% higher than December 1996.

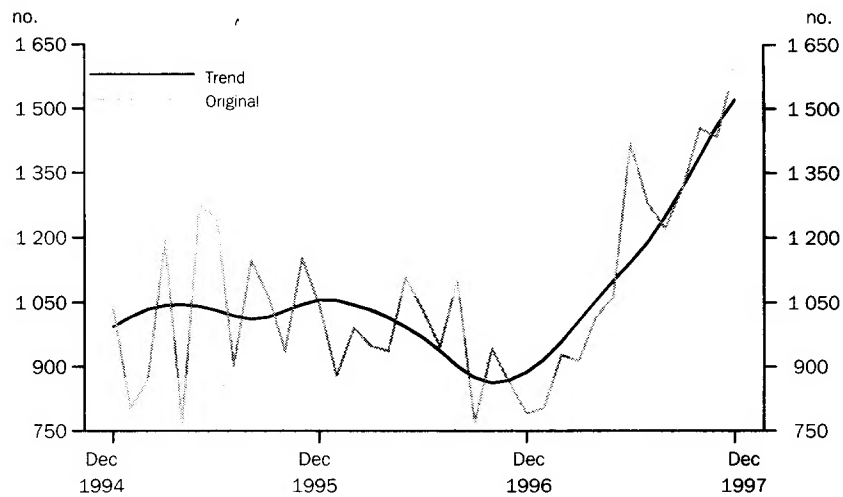
Retail turnover The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for December 1997 was \$214.9 million, up 0.3% on the previous month's figure and up 5.2% on twelve months ago. The monthly growth figure was the highest of any of the States or Territories. The national trend retail turnover recorded an increase of 0.1% on the previous month and 4.7% on a year ago.

Motor vehicle registrations The trend estimate for ACT new motor vehicle registrations in December 1997 was 1,521, up 4.0% on the previous month, and up 71.5% on December 1996. The series has now recorded fourteen consecutive months of increase. Nationally, the trend for total new registrations in December 1997 recorded a 1.1% increase, the fifteenth consecutive monthly increase.

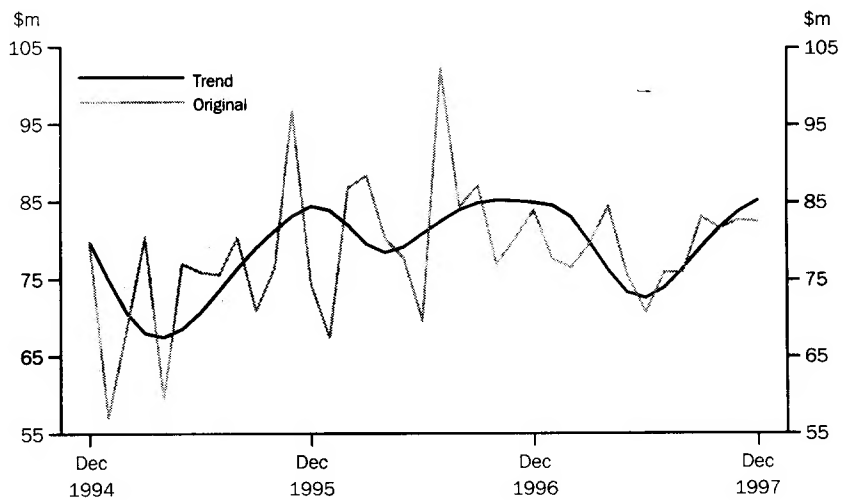
Consumer price index The ACT experienced no change for the All Groups CPI in the December quarter 1997. This compared to a national rise of 0.3%. The ACT annual CPI rate to December quarter 1997 recorded a negative figure of 1.3%, the largest decrease for any of the States or Territories while the annual CPI for the weighted average of the eight capital cities was minus 0.2%.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

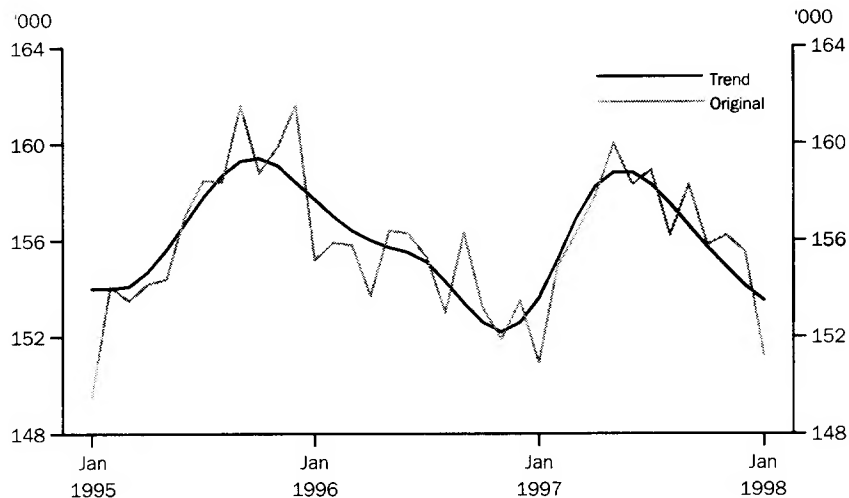
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

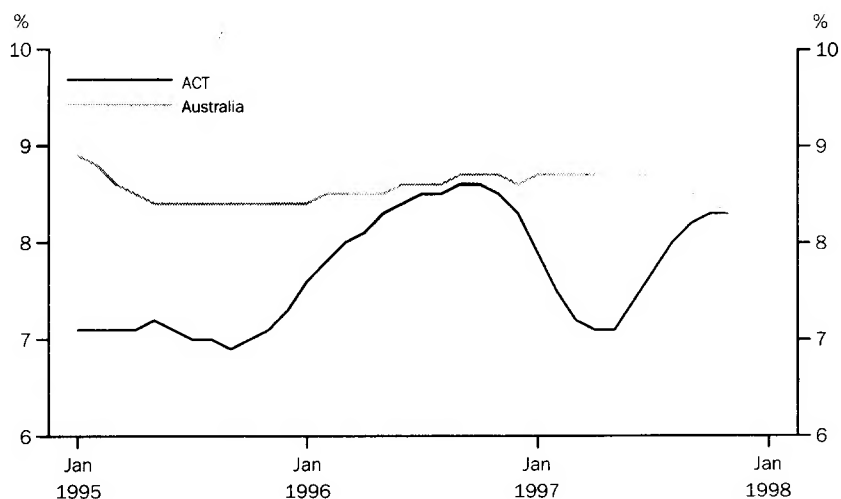


LABOUR FORCE — EMPLOYMENT

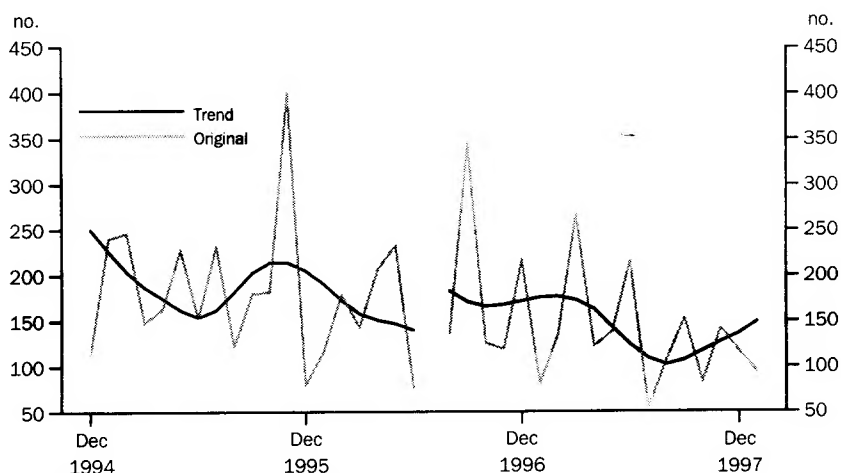


SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS *continued*

LABOUR FORCE — TREND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

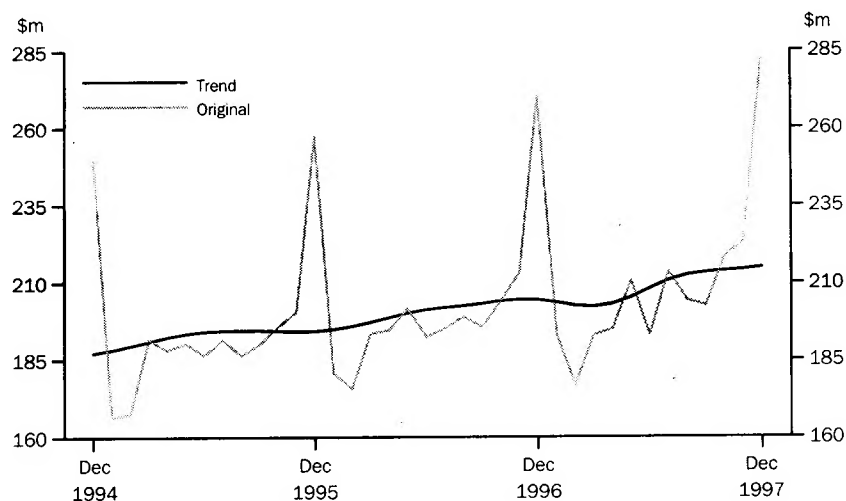


BUILDING APPROVAL — DWELLING UNITS APPROVED



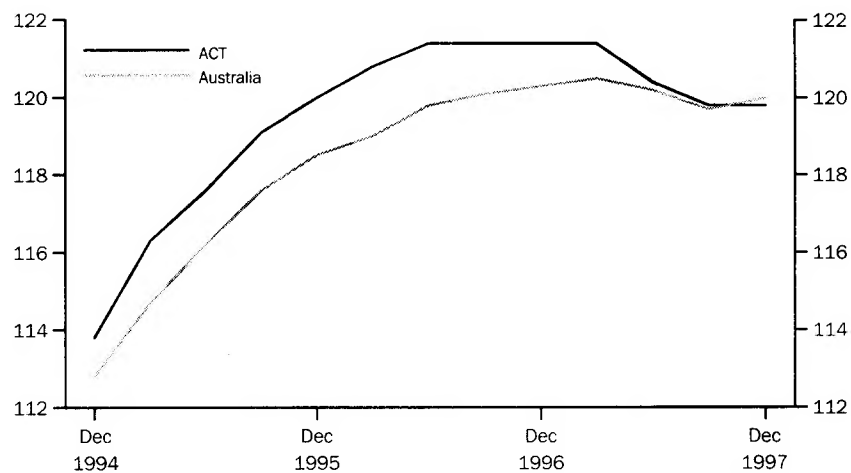
(a) For the period July to December 1996, 165 dwelling units and total building work of \$40.5 million (16%) had been incorrectly omitted from data reported to ABS. All series for the ACT have been revised from July 1996. As further information is received and analysed, the series prior to that are likely to be revised. A trend break has been included in the graph.

RETAIL TURNOVER

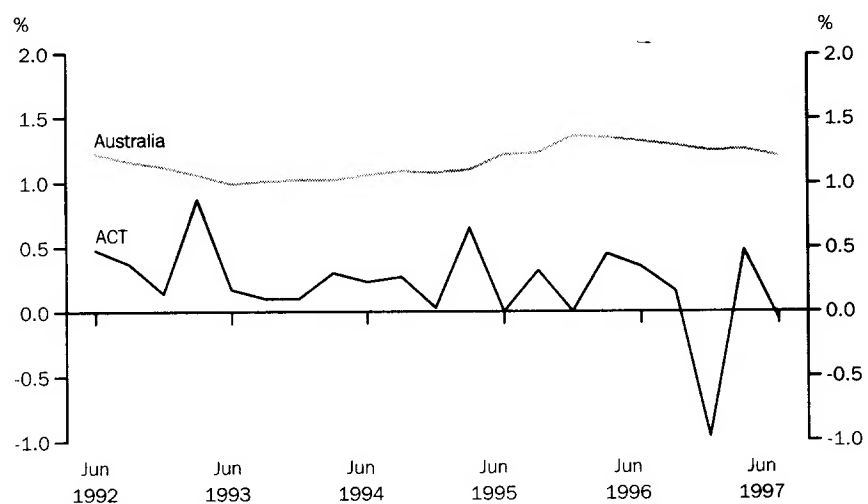


SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS *continued*

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



POPULATION GROWTH



Of the ACT's 140,074 employees in August 1997, 103,153 (73.6%) were full-time employees in their main job, compared to 73.2% in August 1995. Some 84.8% (62,476) of male and 61.3% (40,677) of female employees were full-time employees.

The mean weekly earnings for full-time employees in the ACT rose from \$724 in August 1995 to \$812 in August 1997 (up 12.5%) which was the highest of all States and Territories, while mean weekly earnings for part-time employees rose from \$261 to \$271 (up 3.8%). Nationally, the figures for full-time employees were \$630 in 1995 and \$702 in 1997 (up 11.4%) and for part-time employees, \$236 and \$261 (up 10.6%), respectively.

Male mean weekly earnings (for both full and part-time employees) in the ACT grew from \$701 in August 1995 to \$781 in August 1997 (up 11.4%) and female mean weekly earnings grew from \$492 to \$546 (up 11.0%). For Australia as a whole, male mean weekly earnings rose from \$620 in 1995 to \$685 in 1997 (up 10.5%) while female mean weekly earnings rose from \$416 to \$451 (up 8.4%).

There was a decrease of 2.0% (down 1,343 persons to 66,339) in the number of public sector employees in the two years ending August 1997, while the number of private sector employees rose slightly by 0.2% (up 153 to 73,735). For Australia, the number of public sector employees fell by 8% while the number of private sector employees rose by 4% in the same period.

Public sector employees in the ACT had higher mean weekly earnings than employees in the private sector for both full-time (\$852 compared to \$756) and part-time work (\$403 compared to \$240). In the two years to August 1997 public sector mean weekly earnings for full-time and part-time employees increased at lower rates to those in the private sector, for full-time employees the growth rate was 8.0% for the public sector and 17.9% for the private sector while for part-time employees the figures were 3.3% and 14.3%, respectively.

The majority of full-time employees were in permanent employment in August 1997 (93%) while the majority of part-time employees were in casual employment (66%). The 95,000 permanent employees in the ACT actually had lower mean weekly earnings than the 7,200 casual employees in full-time work (\$810 compared to \$847) which was in contrast to the figures for Australia which showed permanent full-time employees earning more than casuals (\$713 compared to \$613). The 12,400 permanent part-time employees in the ACT had higher mean weekly earnings than the 24,500 casual part-time employees (\$385 compared to \$213), which follows the national trend.

Full-time employees in the Property and Business services sector recorded the highest mean weekly earnings in their main job (\$947), followed by Transport and storage (\$912). In Australia, the highest earnings were recorded in Mining (\$1,136) and Electricity, gas and water supply (\$836). The lowest mean weekly earnings for ACT full-time

employees were found in the Retail Trade sector (\$558) followed by Accommodation, cafes and restaurants (\$569). For Australia, the lowest were in Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$488) and Accommodation, cafes and restaurants (\$527).

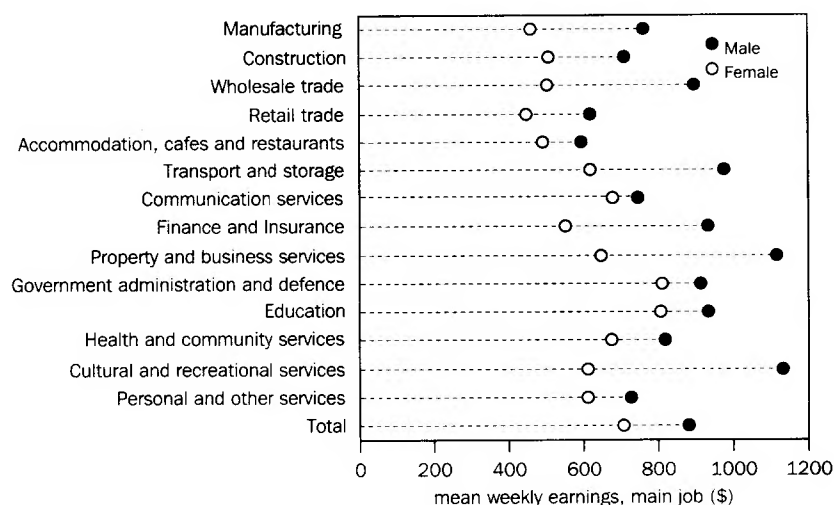
The highest mean weekly earnings for full-time employees were recorded by Managers and administrators (\$1,187) and Professionals (\$969), while for part-time employees, Professionals were the highest (\$457) followed by Managers and administrators (\$401). The lowest mean weekly earnings for both full-time and part-time employees were recorded by Labourers and related workers (\$535 by full-time employees and \$197 by part time employees), and Elementary clerical, sales and service workers (\$583 and \$201).

In August 1997, 98.4% of the full-time employees in the ACT received one or more standard employment benefits in their main job — 96.4% received superannuation, 91.9% received sick leave, 92.4% received holiday leave and 83.6% received long service leave. In comparison 75.6% of the part-time employees in the ACT received one or more standard employment benefits. The figures were similar to those shown for Australia as a whole.

In August 1997, 30.4% (42,518) of ACT employees were members of a trade union, a fall of 3 percentage points from August 1995. For Australia as a whole, 30% of employees were members of a union in August 1997, which was 2 percentage points lower than two years previously. The number of ACT full-time employees who reported that they were a member of a trade union fell from 37.3% (38,842) in August 1995, to 32.8% (33,858) in August 1997 while part-time employees fell from 22.6% (8,620) to 16.8% (6,192).

The proportion of public sector employees who were members of a union (39.0%) was greater than the number of private sector employees who reported that they were members of a trade union (22.5%). By industry sector, trade union membership was highest in Communication services (62%), Transport and storage (54%) and Education (51%).

MEAN WEEKLY EARNINGS, FULL TIME EMPLOYEES, SELECTED INDUSTRIES, ACT



1

BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, MARCH QUARTER 1998/DECEMBER QUARTER 1998, EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE

	ACT	Aust.
<i>Period</i>	%	%
Short-term		
Jun qtr 1996-Sep qtr 1996	0.4	1.6
Sep qtr 1996-Dec qtr 1996	-0.3	1.6
Dec qtr 1996-Mar qtr 1997	-1.1	0.4
Mar qtr 1997-Jun qtr 1997	1.3	1.6
Jun qtr 1997-Sep qtr 1997	-1.7	0.7
Sep qtr 1997-Dec qtr 1997	0.5	3.0
Dec qtr 1997-Mar qtr 1998	-1.2	-0.3
Medium-term		
Jun qtr 1996-Jun qtr 1997	1.4	3.6
Sep qtr 1996-Sep qtr 1997	1.5	3.1
Dec qtr 1996-Dec qtr 1997	2.2	3.1
Mar qtr 1997-Mar qtr 1998	1.7	2.9
Jun qtr 1997-Jun qtr 1998	2.0	2.4
Sep qtr 1997-Sep qtr 1998	1.2	3.9
Dec qtr 1997-Dec qtr 1998	2.7	2.9

BUSINESS INDICATORS FEBRUARY 1998							
Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from			% change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION Jun qtr 97	'000	309.8	-0.1	0.5	18 532.2	0.2	1.2
Natural increase	no.	849	16.6	23.9	32 968	-2.6	9.2
Net migration	no.	-1 044	—	—	11 486	—	—
Total increase	no.	-195	—	—	44 454	—	—
LABOUR FORCE Jan 98							
Original series Jan 98							
Employed	'000	151.2	-2.8	0.2	8 386.3	-2.7	1.1
Unemployed	'000	14.2	5.2	-6.6	816.9	7.0	-4.3
Unemployment rate	%	8.6	0.6	0.6	8.9	0.8	-0.4
Participation rate	%	70.1	-1.7	-0.8	62.7	-1.2	-0.5
Long-term unemployed (Dec 97)	no.	3 777	75.2	38.5	250 056	0.7	10.8
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (Dec 97)	—	28.0	10.8	8.6	32.7	-1.0	4.7
Trend series Jan 98							
Employed	'000	153.5	-0.4	-0.1	8 526.6	0.2	1.4
Unemployed	'000	13.6	-1.4	3.0	756.4	-1.0	-5.1
Unemployment rate	%	8.1	-0.1	0.2	8.1	-0.1	-0.6
Participation rate	%	70.9	-0.4	-0.3	63.2	—	-0.4
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Aug 97							
Trend Series							
Public Sector	'000	69.0	2.4	-4.0	1 476.4	0.3	-1.9
Private Sector	'000	71.0	-4.7	6.3	5 378.7	0.5	1.4
Total Public and Private	'000	140.0	1.3	0.9	6 855.1	0.4	0.6
JOB VACANCIES, Nov 97	'000	1.0	—	-28.6	68.1	-1.7	9.3
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Oct 97							
Working days lost	'000	0.1	-50.0	—	90.1	73.6	162.7
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Aug 97)	no.	21.0	—	85.1	72.0	10.8	-45.9
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, Dec 97							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	6.7	-4.3	-2.9	674.3	3.0	41.1
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	5.1	27.5	-22.7	261.4	7.7	37.2
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	55.0	-7.3	7.4	2 803.6	-0.3	13.3
Refinancing	\$m	15.7	26.6	-18.2	719.3	-2.7	1.2
Total housing commitments	\$m	82.5	-0.2	-1.7	4 458.6	0.2	15.7
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	83.4	-4.4	-4.7	4 680.1	3.3	10.7
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	748	0.4	-9.6	40 311	—	0.5
Total housing commitments	\$m	85.3	1.8	0.5	4 656.4	0.8	11.3
BUILDING APPROVALS, Dec 97							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	94	-19.7	16.0	12 265	-6.2	24.6
Value of new residential	\$m	10.8	-17.6	6.9	1 279.6	-8.0	32.4
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	2.4	-35.1	-33.3	198.7	-12.9	14.7
Value of non-residential	\$m	42.8	62.1	159.4	1 028.9	3.7	6.3
Value of total building	\$m	56.0	29.3	84.2	2 507.3	-4.0	19.0
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	149	9.6	-15.3	13 190	1.9	15.5

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	Previous period	% change from Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	% change from Same period previous year
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION continued							
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Sep qtr 97							
New houses	no.	229	-23.9	-19.1	23 465	1.3	13.0
Value of houses commenced	\$m	24.5	-27.5	-27.7	2 659.1	3.8	19.1
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	54.3	18.6	50.3	3 391.8	10.4	19.5
Value of total commencements	\$m	95.6	25.2	-43.3	7 819.1	6.2	20.0
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Sep qtr 97	—	125.1	-1.7	-1.7	118.9	1.8	4.3
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION (Sep qtr 97)							
Private sector							
Value of work commenced	\$m	20.9	129.7	90.0	2 823.5	2.9	31.8
Value of work done	\$m	13.0	-7.8	-20.2	2 483.5	5.1	9.6
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	31.5	34.0	10.3	6 294.1	3.6	21.5
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	15.7	-35.1	-19.9	1 271.5	-33.3	-12.6
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Dec qtr 97							
Food	(a)	124.9	1.6	2.4	121.1	0.2	1.4
Housing	(a)	93.7	-3.4	-13.2	94.2	-1.8	-8.7
Transportation	(a)	129.0	-1.2	-0.9	124.0	-0.3	-0.4
All groups	(a)	119.8	—	-1.3	120.0	0.3	-0.2
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Aug 97							
Original series							
Males	\$	779.6	2.1	2.3	708.8	2.2	4.3
Females	\$	576.9	2.3	5.7	466.4	1.3	4.3
Persons	\$	677.6	2.0	4.6	592.4	1.8	3.9
Trend series							
Males	\$	775.0	0.4	1.8	705.4	1.2	3.7
Females	\$	576.0	1.0	4.3	467.4	1.1	3.9
Persons	\$	676.4	0.6	3.6	591.2	1.0	3.3
RETAIL TURNOVER, Dec 97							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	90.0	9.0	—	5 161.1	13.7	7.2
Department stores	\$m	44.0	67.3	-2.9	1 879.4	69.1	2.3
Hospitality and services	\$m	34.1	-0.6	-1.2	2 170.0	14.0	4.8
All other retailing	\$m	114.5	43.1	13.8	5 380.9	36.6	6.6
Total	\$m	282.6	26.6	4.5	14 591.4	27.0	5.9
Trend series							
Food retailing	'000	81.1	0.5	0.5	4 529.3	0.3	4.9
Department stores	\$m	23.9	-0.4	-0.8	1 007.3	—	2.9
Hospitality and services	\$m	32.6	-0.3	2.2	1 851.5	-0.3	4.0
All other retailing	%	77.3	0.7	14.3	3 822.9	0.2	5.2
Total	'000	214.9	0.3	5.2	11 211.0	0.1	4.7

(a) Base year: 1989-90=100.0.

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from			% change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Jun qtr 97							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	192.0	-5.6	-11.1	8 699.4	-5.4	-1.0
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.3	-4.7	-9.9	853.2	-7.6	2.1
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.2	-3.8	-9.0	708.9	-7.3	1.7
Room occupancy rate (Sep qtr 97)	%	56.3	1.8	-1.2	58.0	3.4	-0.8
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000	195.7	-6.9	-10.6	9 101.1	-2.0	-0.8
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.5	-6.6	-9.3	910.9	-1.4	2.6
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.4	-5.5	-8.3	756.9	-1.1	2.2
Trend series							
Room nights	'000	202.9	-1.3	-2.4	9 201.2	-0.4	0.6
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.2	-1.0	0.5	922.1	0.7	4.8
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.9	-0.6	0.6	764.5	0.6	4.1
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, Dec 97							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 601	11.6	102.4	67 915	10.5	24.4
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 581	4.9	88.7	64 838	2.3	21.4
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 521	4.0	71.5	64 587	1.1	17.7
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, Sep qtr 97(a)							
Trend series (at average 1989-90 prices)							
Private Final Consumption expenditure	\$m	1 286	1.9	5.2	68 509	1.1	3.3
Government Final Consumption expenditure	\$m	1 311	0.9	-0.1	18 541	0.3	2.2
Private Gross Fixed Capital Expenditure	\$m	193	2.1	2.1	22 449	4.2	13.9
Government Gross Fixed Capital Expenditure	\$m	-9	-115.3	-107.9	4 802	-3.8	7.1
Final Demand	\$m	2 781	-1.0	-2.0	114 301	1.3	5.2

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).

Source: ABS Catalogue nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	'000	Jun qtr 97	6 274.4	4 605.1	3 401.2	1 479.8	1 798.1	473.5	187.1	309.8	18 532.2
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Jan 98	2 843.1	2 127.1	1 595.2	656.2	870.5	194.0	88.7	153.5	8 526.6
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Jan 98	7.4	8.3	9.0	9.8	7.0	11.2	4.0	8.1	8.1
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS											
Public Sector (trend)	'000	Aug 97	469.9	322.1	285.0	119.3	146.1	42.0	23.1	69.0	1 476.4
Private Sector (trend)	'000	Aug 97	1 913.5	1 410.3	911.8	379.6	523.2	120.8	48.5	71.0	5 378.7
Total Public and Private Sector (trend)	'000	Aug 97	2 383.5	1 732.4	1 196.8	498.9	669.2	162.9	71.6	140.0	6 855.1
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)											
State Final Demand at 1989-90 prices (trend)	\$m	Sep qtr 97	38 726	29 031	20 074	8 058	11 687	2 460	1 215	2 781	114 301
State Final Demand at current prices (trend)	\$m	Sep qtr 97	44 184	32 725	23 055	9 370	13 360	2 944	1 409	3 292	130 607
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Dec 97	4 380	2 641	2 813	513	1 412	155	257	94	12 265
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Dec 97	4 490	2 906	3 012	559	1 524	145	182	149	13 190
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Dec 97	286.0	439.7	116.3	35.1	70.3	12.7	26.1	42.8	1 028.9
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Dec 97	885.8	774.5	389.5	93.7	221.6	28.9	57.3	56.0	2 507.3
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Sep qtr 97	1 019.3	657.7	896.1	255.5	803.9	46.8	47.0	28.7	3 755.0
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	Nov 97	729.6	707.4	665.3	663.4	707.1	674.5	711.0	800.8	779.6
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Dec 97	3 982.9	2 618.7	2 051.1	819.2	1 127.5	274.4	119.0	214.9	11 211.0
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	Jun qtr 97	3,096.5	1 531.6	2 445.2	530.5	839.7	250.4	304.4	202.9	9 201.2
Room occupancy rate (original)	%	Sep qtr 97	57.5	53.2	64.5	52.2	57.9	39.5	66.7	56.3	58.0
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	Dec 97	21 560	16 366	12 071	4 336	6 753	1 278	702	1 521	64 587
	Unit	Latest period	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX											
Food	(b)	Dec qtr 97	121.6	119.7	121.2	122.0	122.0	121.7	122.3	124.9	121.1
Housing	(b)	Dec qtr 97	100.1	86.9	100.2	90.2	88.8	95.5	111.3	93.7	94.2
Transportation	(b)	Dec qtr 97	124.7	124.4	124.0	122.3	121.5	122.1	122.4	129.0	124.0
All Groups	(b)	Dec qtr 97	120.1	119.8	121.4	121.2	117.6	121.2	120.8	119.8	120.0
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Dec qtr 97	116	133	118	124	135	125	122	115	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Dec qtr 97	200	188	195	163	187	189	196	198	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Dec qtr 97	1226	1050	1086	1098	1052	976	1211	1123	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Dec qtr 97	363	357	359	351	368	394	386	348	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Dec qtr 97	122	142	114	104	120	83	141	125	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	Dec qtr 97	635	633	656	592	656	697	640	642	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Dec qtr 97	334	299	256	354	366	259	325	289	n.a.
Private motoring petrol											
Leaded	1 litre	Dec qtr 97	75.4	74.9	68.1	75	75.8	81.3	82.6	75.6	n.a.
Unleaded	1 litre	Dec qtr 97	73.2	72.8	65.9	72.6	73.7	79.3	80.6	73.4	n.a.

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).

(b) Base year: 1989-90=100.0.

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	Jun qtr 97	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	—	0.4	-0.1	0.2
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Jan 98	0.3	0.3	0.2	-0.3	0.1	0.1	0.8	-0.4	0.2
Unemployment rate (trend)	Jan 98	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	—	—	-0.1	—	-0.1	-0.1
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS										
Public Sector (trend)	Aug 97	-0.3	-0.3	1.1	2.5	-0.1	-1.6	1.8	2.4	0.3
Private Sector (trend)	Aug 97	0.2	—	3.4	-0.1	-0.8	0.1	-3.2	-4.7	0.5
Total Public and Private Sector (trend)	Aug 97	0.2	-0.1	2.9	0.5	-0.7	-0.4	-1.6	-1.3	0.4
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)										
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	Sep qtr 97	0.6	0.8	1.3	2.0	2.5	0.8	0.5	-1.0	1.3
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	Sep qtr 97	0.7	1.3	1.2	2.4	2.8	1.2	—	—	1.6
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved	Dec 97	-7.4	-18.7	7.0	-7.1	-8.4	21.1	90.4	-19.7	-6.2
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Dec 97	2.0	-0.7	0.4	0.5	2.8	1.4	5.2	9.6	1.9
Value of non-residential building approved	Dec 97	-24.9	77.8	-36.1	-45.6	-11.5	74.0	467.4	62.1	3.7
Value of all buildings approved	Dec 97	-13.8	15.7	-13.9	-26.0	-11.4	35.7	203.2	29.3	-4.0
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Sep qtr 97	-24.5	-14.9	-9.2	-16.9	12.8	-26.9	34.3	-25.1	-12.0
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Nov 97	0.8	1.6	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.6	1.3
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	Dec 97	0.1	0.2	0.2	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.1
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Jun qtr 97	-0.8	0.8	-0.3	0.1	-0.1	-2.4	-1.6	-1.3	-0.4
Room occupancy rate (original)	Sep qtr 97	1.5	-0.1	8.1	1.1	4.1	-4.2	14.0	1.8	3.4
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	Dec 97	0.8	1.3	0.7	2.2	0.9	0.8	2.3	4.0	1.1
	Latest period	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX										
Food	Dec qtr 97	0.2	-0.1	2.1	—	-0.3	0.6	0.4	1.6	0.2
Housing	Dec qtr 97	-1.2	-2.0	-2.1	-2.2	-1.8	-2.3	-2.0	-3.4	-1.8
Transportation	Dec qtr 97	-0.4	-0.2	0.2	-0.7	-0.2	-0.1	—	-1.2	-0.3
All Groups	Dec qtr 97	0.3	0.3	0.6	—	0.1	0.5	-0.2	0.0	0.3
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Dec qtr 97	—	2.3	0.9	1.6	1.5	—	0.8	0.9	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Dec qtr 97	-1.5	-5.5	2.1	1.2	2.7	3.3	—	4.2	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Dec qtr 97	4.6	-2.1	-0.2	-3.3	2.7	-1.6	-0.6	9.2	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Dec qtr 97	-0.5	-10.3	1.4	-3.0	1.1	-3.0	-12.3	-6.5	n.a.
Potatoes	Dec qtr 97	—	4.4	-2.6	-6.3	4.3	18.6	6.8	10.6	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	Dec qtr 97	0.8	-0.8	4.3	3.3	-4.2	5.1	4.9	4.6	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Dec qtr 97	1.5	3.1	0.4	1.7	3.1	2.4	1.2	-1.0	n.a.
Private motoring petrol										
Leaded	Dec qtr 97	1.1	0.5	3.5	0.7	1.6	2.0	2.1	-2.2	n.a.
Unleaded	Dec qtr 97	1.1	0.7	3.6	0.6	1.7	2.1	2.2	-2.3	n.a.

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).



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